

Questions for Contextual Mutual Psalm Interpretation

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At the Level of the Book:

- How does the book begin? How does it end?
- How does the beginning of the book relate to the themes and ending of the previous book?
- How does the book develop the themes and ideas of the previous book(s)?
- How do these books comment on and develop the introductory psalms (1-2)?
- Are there any sub-collections within the book?
- Does the structure of the sub-collections suggest anything?
- Do any key words or themes unite the sub-collections together?
- What is the progression of thought through these psalms?

At the Level of the Psalm:

- Who wrote this psalm?
- Is the speaker in the psalm a singular person or a community?
- Who is he/they speaking to?
- Is the tone of the psalm one of praise or complaint?
- Is there any historical notes in the heading of the psalm? If so, what biblical passage does it refer to? How might this historical note help to interpret the psalm?
- What is the literary context of the psalm?
 - What book of the Psalter is it in?
 - What sub-collection is it in?
 - Is the psalm on one of the seams?
 - Does it relate to any other psalms on the seams of other books?
- What is the psalm generally about?
- Does it seem like this psalm is quoting or alluding to other Scripture? Which ones and how?
- Could any verses in the psalm be related to Psalms 1-2? How so?
- Are there any questions in this psalm?
 - What are they?
 - Who are they addressed to?
 - Why are they being asked?
 - Are any of the same questions being asked in other parts of the Psalter?
 - Are the questions answered in this psalm?
 - Could the next psalm(s) provide an answer?
- What words are repeated in this psalm?
- Do any of these words show up in the psalm preceding or following this one? Are they linked together?
- Are there any key themes in this psalm?
- Do any of these themes appear in the psalms preceding and following this one? Do they develop in any way?